**Assistance from World Bank**

1028. SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Development Forum which met in Paris for the first time after the Pokhran nuclear test in May 1998, did not pledge any fresh aid by donor countries led by the World Bank;

(b) whether it is a fact that there was no fresh commitment indicating that the economic sanctions imposed after the nuclear tests have not been fully lifted; and

(c) what steps his Ministry will take to get assistance from them for poverty alleviation programmes and for effecting fiscal consolidation in the medium term both at the Centre and State?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Issues relating to sanctions and fresh commitments were not discussed at the India Development Forum Meeting held in May, 2000. The agenda of the meeting focused on issues relating to effectiveness and relevance of external assistance in the framework of development planning in India and the need for structuring external aid to be consistent with the economic priorities of the country. The theme for discussion this year at the IDF was "Poverty-States' Dimension".

(b) No, Sir. Most of the major donors continue to make fresh commitments. The actual commitments made during 1999-2000 were US$ 2093.66 million.

(c) Most of the Donors/External agencies did not impose sanctions on programmes/projects relating to Basic Human Needs. Hence, we continue to receive external assistance for poverty alleviation programmes. As per the 9th Plan document the total net external assistance provides only 7% of the total plan investment. Fiscal consolidation is an ongoing process in the Ministry of Finance. For containing fiscal deficit, a number of measures have been initiated by the Ministry of Finance which include; setting up of a committee for examining the possibility of a strong institutional mechanism embodied in a Fiscal Responsibility Act, constitution of

an Expenditure Reforms Commission to look into areas where expenditure can be curtailed and signing of MOUs with 13 States in which a financial package has been extended to the States for implementing fiscal reforms.

**Vacancies of CMDs and EDs in Banks and FIs**

1029. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been several vacancies of Chairman and Managing Directors and Executive Directors lying vacant in various public sector banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to appoint these high officials/executives in nationalised banks/financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Vacancies of whole time directors of public sector banks and financial institutions where appointments are to be made by the Central Government are as under:—

1. Chairman (part time),
   Export-Import Bank of India
2. Chairman,
   National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
3. Chairman and Managing Director,
   Small Industries Development Bank of India
4. Chairman and Managing Director,
   UCO Bank
5. Chairman and Managing Director,
   Punjab and Sind Bank
6. Chairman and Managing Director,
   Bank of Maharashtra